

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A cutting head for brush cutter or edge trimmer, the head being of the type including a passageway for a cutter string and at least one curved portion for supporting the string, the curved portion extending between an exit region for said string from said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, the head being characterized in that the passageway is essentially linear and extends along an axis (A) that is spaced a distance (D) from an axis of rotation (C) of the head so as to present an inner edge constituted by its edge closest to said axis of rotation, said inner edge configured for engaging ~~corresponding to~~ a trailing edge of the string while the head is rotating, and in that the curved portion presents, at least locally, a radius of curvature (R) that is greater than said distance and extends from said inner edge.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that the curved portion presents a radius of curvature that is constant.

17. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that the curved portion presents a radius of curvature that is variable.

18. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that the curved portion joins the string passageway substantially tangentially.

19. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that the curved portion joins the peripheral region of the head substantially tangentially.

20. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that a secondary curved portion is provided between an outer edge of the passageway opposite from its inner edge and the peripheral region of the head.

21. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that two string passageways and respective curved portions are provided.

22. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 21, characterized in that the two string passageways are situated on either side of the axis of rotation of the head, and in that the exit regions from the respective passageways are situated in diametrically-opposite regions of the head.

23. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to ~~[[of]]~~ claim 14, characterized in that the string passageway is configured for receiving a cutter string ~~presents a cross-section that is~~ having a polygonal cross-section.

24. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to claim 23, characterized in that the string passageway is configured for receiving a cutter string ~~presents~~ having a width greater than about 3 mm.

25–31. (Canceled)